



STATE OF WASHINGTON
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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November 14, 2006

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

The Honorable Members
Washington State Senate
PO Box 40482
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

The Honorable Members
Washington State House of Representatives
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Governor Gregoire, Senators, and Representatives:

The Transportation Commission is pleased to present the newly updated 2007-2026 Washington Transportation Plan (WTP). This document outlines transportation goals and objectives for the entire state, not just for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). It is designed to:

- Offer policy guidance for all jurisdictions statewide on matters related to the transportation system over the next 20 years.
- Provide a data-driven guide to transportation priorities that reflect input gathered from many entities, organizations, and citizens across the state, as well as from deliberations by the Transportation Commission.
- Identify the top transportation investment priorities for the entire state in the areas of: (1) Preservation; (2) Safety; (3) Economic Vitality; (4) Mobility; and (5) Environmental Quality and Health.

Based in part on the Governor's Priorities of Government, this plan is the product of a collaborative effort of more than two years between the Transportation Commission and WSDOT. Together, we conducted an unprecedented level of outreach with governmental entities, organizations, and the general public across the state. The transportation budget proposal the Transportation Commission submitted to the 2005 Legislature, funded through the Transportation Partnership Act, was based on early data and stakeholder input from the initial phases of plan development.

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Transportation Commission members, accompanied by WSDOT staff, personally met with each of the fourteen Regional Transportation Planning Organizations and sought public comment at fifteen public outreach events throughout the state. With the plan incorporating many comments from citizens and organizations statewide, the outreach process proved to be valuable for both the Transportation Commission, WSDOT, and the general public.

Given the recent changes in transportation governance, the Transportation Commission views this plan as a transitional effort, bridging its past role with its revised mission to formulate future plans and visions for transportation. The Transportation Commission will spend the next two years furthering the evolution of this plan; culminating in an amended version in time for the 2009 legislative session and budget deliberations, as required under statute.

As we move forward, our hope is that the current WTP update provides useful policy guidance in prioritizing the 2007 - 2009 budget and concurrent policy deliberations. We believe the data and information contained in this plan provide a guide that can be used to test specific policy and fiscal proposals brought forward for your consideration.

Please feel free to contact myself or our Executive Director, Reema Griffith, at 360-705-7070, if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Ford". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "R" and a cursive "Ford".

Richard Ford, Chairman
Washington State Transportation Commission